

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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SMALLER TURKEY CROP EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Turkey growers plan to reduce turkey production in 1948 by 18 percent, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. If growers carry out their intentions, the number of turkeys raised this year will be 28,470,000, compared with 34,667,000 in 1947. This would be the third successive year of reduction following the peak of 1945. Growers' returns indicated that the 1948 crop will be the smallest since 1938 -- 36 percent below the record of 44,221,000 birds in 1945 and 15 percent below the 1940-44 average.

The reasons given by turkey growers for the intended decrease all relate to low turkey prices in relation to feed prices, and prospects for even higher feed prices before the 1948 feed crops are harvested.

Turkey growers in the West North Central States, the largest producing area in the United States in 1947, plan a decrease of 31 percent this year. A large share of the Nation's early turkeys are raised in this region. A decrease of 19 percent is expected in the East North Central States. In the North Atlantic States, growers plan a decrease of 17 percent. Growers in the West, where over a fourth of the total 1947 turkey crop was raised, expect a 11 percent decrease this year. The smallest decreases planned are 7 and 10 percent in the South Atlantic and South Central States respectively.

The numbers actually raised usually vary from January 1 intentions, the difference depending on prices of feed, hatching eggs and poults, on the sale of turkeys remaining in growers' hands and on the supply of hatching eggs. Last year the decrease in number of turkeys raised was about the same as intended on January 1, because higher feed prices and lower turkey prices than a year earlier continued throughout the hatching season. In 1946 producers raised 4 percent less than they intended in January because of an uncertain feed situation during the hatching season. In 1945 the number of turkeys raised was 14 percent more than January 1 intentions, because of the increase in turkey prices and the shortage of red meats. In 1944 producers raised 8 percent more turkeys than they planned on January 1. In earlier years of record the intention indications exceeded actual numbers raised -- in 1943 by 11 percent, in 1942 by 8 percent, in 1941 by less than 1 percent, in 1939 and 1940 by 2 percent, and in 1938 by 3 percent.

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INTENTIONS TO RAISE TURKEYS IN 1948

State	Turkeys raised					
and	Average	1945	1946	Indicated	Intended in 1948	
Division	1940-44			1947 1/	Number	% 1947
			Thousands			Percent
Me.	49	59	51	50	35	70
N.H.	65	92	75	73	55	75
Vt.	141	185	174	137	96	70
Mass.	272	354	333	316	300	95
R.I.	25	35	33	33	31	95
Conn.	132	226	212	178	160	90
N.Y.	470	756	756	741	719	97
N.J.	164	375	405	364	273	75
Pa.	931	1,460	1,431	1,317	1,001	76
N. ATL.	2,248	3,542	3,470	3,209	2,670	83
Ohio	898	1,155	1,155	1,097	823	75
Ind.	453	1,010	1,081	919	818	89
Ill.	631	1,002	1,152	1,071	771	72
Mich.	515	1,002	932	792	752	95
Wis.	489	640	614	491	393	80
E. N. CENT.	2,985	4,809	4,934	4,370	3,557	81
Minn.	3,093	3,979	4,019	3,336	2,168	65
Iowa	1,877	2,890	3,208	2,566	1,694	66
Mo.	1,468	1,838	1,746	1,310	1,114	85
N. Dak.	1,136	842	968	871	523	60
S. Dak.	914	434	421	295	148	50
Nebr.	935	1,054	1,159	927	649	70
Kans.	1,005	914	896	663	570	86
W. N. CENT.	10,429	11,951	12,417	9,968	6,866	69
Del.	98	101	91	68	62	91
Md.	403	490	466	350	350	100
Va.	871	1,232	1,331	1,065	1,012	95
W. Va.	272	416	437	398	366	92
N. C.	255	376	421	379	330	87
S. C.	202	420	420	357	303	85
Ga.	131	173	182	182	191	105
Fla.	106	115	115	109	104	95
S. ATL.	2,337	3,323	3,463	2,908	2,718	93
Ky.	264	259	220	165	132	80
Tenn.	171	159	175	140	119	85
Ala.	154	151	151	121	85	70
Miss.	123	100	85	72	72	100
Ark.	131	152	129	72	58	80
La.	55	46	48	46	46	100
Okla.	1,058	686	652	561	477	85
Tex.	3,852	4,701	4,231	3,681	3,387	92
S. CENT.	5,807	6,254	5,621	4,858	4,376	90
Mont.	203	155	170	119	101	85
Idaho	281	398	239	191	172	90
Wyo.	173	173	156	131	94	72
Colo.	875	947	900	765	574	75
N. Mex.	65	80	88	94	94	100
Ariz.	77	102	87	76	46	60
Utah	1,233	2,036	1,486	1,263	1,099	87
Nev.	40	51	46	37	35	95
Wash.	1,028	1,533	1,303	1,121	953	85
Oreg.	1,971	3,105	2,049	1,639	1,393	85
Calif.	3,786	5,762	4,610	3,918	3,722	95
WEST.	9,731	14,342	11,134	9,354	8,283	89
U. S.	33,536	44,221	41,109	34,667	28,470	82

1/ Preliminary estimates as of August 1, 1947.